

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT Berlin Situation as of 11:30 P.M.
(Berlin time) 17 June

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BY CABLE

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1. The key areas of disturbance centered around Leipzigerstrasse, Wilhelmstrasse, Friedrichstrasse, Zimmerstrasse, Potsdamer Platz and Strausberger Platz. Soviet troops were backing up the regular Volkspolizei man for man while uniformed members of the FDJ were held in reserve. The first Soviet commitment consisted of elements of the 1st Mechanized Division with about 3,000 men and forty tanks. These were reinforced later in the day by additional troops and tanks belonging possibly to the 6th Guards Mechanized Division.
2. As of 9:00 P.M. on 17 June, the curfew imposed by Soviet authorities seemed to be effective. No crowd demonstrations were reported and the demonstrators were apparently yielding to the Russian soldiers' pressure.
3. Apparently all Sector border crossing points are blocked or guarded by Russian troops, supported in many cases by tanks. Commitment of KVP during the day has not been reported. [redacted] they were put on alert and restricted to their Kasernes. [redacted] one KVP unit defected en masse during the day.
4. Public transportation in the Soviet Sector is at a standstill. The S-Bahn is not operating in West Berlin. Train service between East Berlin and Wittenberg was reported to have ceased and in general the DDR railroad service is impaired because of the confusion. As of 7:30 P.M. on 17 June, no over-all operational orders had been issued by the Reichsbahn Direktion. The Basa net (railway communication system) in East Berlin was out of commission. [redacted] passenger traffic was seriously curtailed by order of the Reichsbahn. No tickets for Berlin or vicinity were being sold. There have been no reports that the freed rolling stock is being diverted to other purposes or that unusual troop movements are taking place.
5. [redacted] the disturbances have spread through the Zone. Demonstrations had supposedly taken place at the Leunawerke near Merseburg, and at Magdeburg and Leipzig.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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6. In addition to Otto Nuschke, Fritz Selbmann, Minister of Smelting and Mining, and Seifert, an SSD official are  in West Berlin. However, there has been no confirmation of this.

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